

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PERTH 00060 170520Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 CU-04 ISO-00 /014 W
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R 170355Z MAR 76
FM AMCONSUL PERTH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0912
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS PERTH 0060

DEPT FOR SQUIRES EA/ANP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, AS, US (COURT, MARGARET)

SUBJ: MARGARET COURT

REF: SQUIRES-HARGROVE TELECON 3/16/76

1. ON AN INFORMAL BASIS, SIR CHARLES COURT HAS REQUESTED ANY ASSISTANCE WE CAN RENDER IN OBTAINING RECONSIDERATION BY WOMEN'S TENNIS ASSOCIATION OF USDOLS 6000 FINE HE BELIEVES MOST UNFAIRLY LEVIED ON HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, MARGARET COURT. HE HAS ALSO ASKED ARTHUR REEF, VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS, AMAX, NEW YORK, TO ASSIST IN COOPERATION WITH ME AND, AS FEASIBLE, WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES.
 2. MARGARET, WHO HAS ANNOUNCED HER RETIREMENT FROM PROFESSIONAL TENNIS, WAS ASSESSED FINE ON 1/22/76 FOR NON-APPEARANCE, WITHOUT EXCUSE OR PERMISSION, AT TOURNAMENT IN DENVER IN APRIL 1975. NEITHER MARGARET OR HER ATTORNEY APPEARED AT HEARING. SHE WAS ALLOWED ONE WEEK TO APPEAL WHICH APPARENTLY NOT LODGED.
 3. SIR CHARLES BELIEVES THAT MARGARET'S ATTORNEY, LAURENCE KREIGER, 230 PARK AVE., NEW YORK, THOUGH A MAN OF GOODWILL AND INTEGRITY, HAS HANDLED HER CASE INEFFECTIVELY. REEF, IN RECENT TELECON, CONFIRMS THIS ASSESSMENT OF DREIGER AND WILL BE CONTACTING HIM BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER.
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RM SIR CHARLES NOTES THAT MARGARET GAVE THREE MONTHS NOTICE OF NON-APPEARANCE WHILE OTHER MEMBERS ARE FREQUENTLY EXCUSED ON DAY'S NOTICE FOR BOGUS 'BAD LEGS'. HE FEELS WTA HELD 'KANGAROO COURT' WHICH UNFAIRLY VINDICATED TOWARD FINE PROFESSIONAL WHO HAS ALWAYS UPHELD HIGHEST STANDARDS SPORTSMANSHIP AND FEELS THAT WTA ACTION, AT TIME OF MARGARET'S RETIREMENT, WILL BE RESENTED IN AUSTRALIA AS 'TYPICALLY AMERICAN' THUS PROVIDING AMMUNITION TO THOSE WHO INCLINED 'DENIGRATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND AMERICA'.

5. ANY ACTION WHICH DEPARTMENT CAN TAKE TO RESOLVE THIS INCIDENT WILL BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED BY SIR CHARLES WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN UNFLAGGING IN HIS SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE. ARTHUR REEF FULLY ACQUAINTED WITH CIRCUMSTANCES. RECOMMEND ANP FIRST CONTACT HIM TO ASCERTAIN WHAT HE MAY HAVE DONE BEFORE UNDERTAKING ANY SUPPORTIVE ACTION.

6. CONSULATE WILL APPRECIATE FEEDBACK AS AVAILABLE.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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